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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PLANT BIOSCIENCE LIMITED [GB/GB]; Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HUTCHINGS, Matthew, Ian [GB/GB]; John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH (GB). HONG, Hee-Jeon [KR/GB]; John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH (GB). BUTTNER, Mark, Jeremy [GB/GB]; John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH (GB).

(74) Agents: KREMER, Simon et al.; Mewburn Ellis LLP, York House, 23 Kingsway, London, Greater London WC2B 6HP (GB).

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WO 2005/001118 A3

(54) Title: DETECTION SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a methods and materials for detecting an activity of a glycopeptide antibiotic (such as a vancomycin-type antibiotic), in a sample, the method comprising the steps of: (a) providing a microorganism in which a first endogenous gene encoding peptidyltransferase activity is inactivated, which activity is necessary for growth of the microorganism, and which activity can be complemented by a second, different, peptidyltransferase, which second peptidyltransferase is inducible in the microorganism by the presence of the antibiotic, (b) contacting the sample with the microorganism, (c) observing the microorganism for growth, wherein growth of the microorganism is correlated with the presence of the antibiotic. Unlike systems of the prior art, the system does not rely on the expression of a heterologous reporter gene in order to detect antibiotic activity, but instead utilises a "drug dependent" microorganism that can only grow in the presence of antibiotics that act as inducers of the relevant genes.